(*c*), (*d*), (*e*) and (*g*) The matter is under enquiry.

(*f*) The answer is in the negative.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to say whether any enquiry was held in the matter by the Chief Engineer?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer given there says that the matter is under enquiry.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): That is the answer. But this is my further supplementary question.

PRESIDENT: The printed answer contains the answer also to the member's supplementary question. "The matter is under enquiry" means that the enquiry is going on.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): It is not said in the answer whether the enquiry is made by the Chief Engineer or by the Government. So I have put a further question to get a definite answer.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The matter has been enquired into by the Chief Engineer.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): If so, have the Government found the person responsible for the loss?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The person responsible can be found out and the liability fixed by the Government only when the matter is finally disposed of.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): In the answer to part (*c*), it is said that the matter is under enquiry. I want to know whether it is a fact that the Executive Engineer reported the matter to the Chief Engineer.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The contents of official documents cannot be revealed at this stage.

Literacy in certain Communities.

38. MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to give the percentage of literates to the whole population under the following heads: Christians, Nairs, Brahmins, Ezhavas, Vellalas, other Hindus, and Mahomedans?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to chapter VIII and tables thereunder of the Travancore Census Report for 1921.

Grant of Land for Salt Culture.

39. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*):

(*a*) Have Government sanctioned an additional grant of 20 acres land to Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar besides the old grant?

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[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

(*b*) If so, what were the conditions on which the new grant was made?

(*c*) Have those conditions been fulfilled by Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar? If not, what steps have been taken to enforce them?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) and (*c*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), no answer is called for.

Purchase of Opium.

40. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): (*a*) What is the quantity of opium annually purchased from the British Government?

(*b*) What is the duty on it?

(*c*) Is this duty credited in the budget? If not, why?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) About 5000 seers.

(*b*) and (*c*) Opium required for use in this State is now purchased from the Government of Madras at Br. Rs. 70 per seer, which is made up of Rs. 23 being the cost price to that Government, and Rs. 47 being the duty charged by that Government. The duty does not form a receipt of the Travancore Government. That is the existing understanding between the two Governments.

Receipts under Customs.

41. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): What is the revenue under Customs in 1096, 1097 and 1098, both under export and import?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to page 41 of the Statistical Volume for 1097. The figures for 1098 will be available only after the close of the year.

Tariff Rate of Cocoanuts.

42. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): What is the tariff rate on cocoanuts? When was it fixed? Do Government contemplate revising it?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) The member is referred to page 538 of the Almanac and Directory for 1923.

(2) The tariff rate was fixed by notification No. S. R. 229/585, dated the 30th January, 1920.

(3) No revision of the rate is now in contemplation.

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